

ARCHIPS ARGYROSPILA WALKER
(LEP.: TORTRICIDAE):
A SPECIES NEW TO BRITAIN

By M. J. STERLING* and P. STERLING**

On the 29th of April 1984, Mr. Brian Statham was contacted by the manager of a florists shop in Matlock, Derbyshire, (VC57) and informed of a moth which was flying round the premises. The specimen was captured and passed on to MJS. Being unable to do any better than "large foreign Tortricid", it was passed on to the British Museum of Natural History by MJS for identification and has been determined by Dr. J. D. Bradley as *Archips argyrospila* Walker.



The following information has been given to us by Dr. Bradley. The species is a native of the USA where it is commonly known as the Fruit Tree Leaf Roller. The larva feeds predominantly on Apple and Cherry and sometimes causes severe foliage and fruit-scar damage; it also feeds on Hawthorn and Oak and is probably mildly polyphagous. The species has various forms or "ecological" races and as the specimen from Matlock is a female with dark hindwings it probably originated from the eastern States.

Given that the species occurs at similar latitudes to our own, it could perhaps be found breeding in this country as a result of further imports and should not necessarily be dismissed, if found, as an accidental introduction. We are, however, convinced that in the circumstances the Matlock specimen must have been an import.

As there seems to be no mention of this species in previous British literature we have made the following description of the Matlock specimen. Female. Wingspan 19mm. Head greyish-brown, collar pale ochreous; antennae and prolegs greyish-brown, palps

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straight and very short, greyish-brown. Thorax purplish-brown with some whitish scales on the metathoracic segment. Forewing ground colour whitish, densely irrorated purplish-brown except towards costa, giving the appearance of a broad white band running along the costa, except where it is interrupted by fasciae (see below). Three more or less defined dark brown fasciae running obliquely and distally from costa narrowing towards but reaching dorsum; first towards base; second before $\frac{1}{2}$; third at $\frac{3}{4}$. Pre-tornal blotch dark brown. Forewing cilia grey. Hindwings grey, cilia pale ochreous.

The specimen is to be presented, in accordance with the wishes of the captor, to the Derbyshire Entomological Society reference collection.

Acknowledgements

For determining the specimen we are grateful to Dr. J. D. Bradley. For the photograph of the specimen figured we thank Mr. B. Case, Dept. of Biology, Photographic Unit, University of Nottingham. We also wish to thank the manager of "Fleur", florists of Matlock, Derbyshire.

RED-NECKED FOOTMAN: *ATOLMIS RUBRICOLLIS* L. IN ESSEX. — At Ingrave (TQ 6292) on 2.vi. 1976, my son Rory found a moth unfamiliar to him which proved to be the Red-necked Footman. The species had not been recorded from Essex since 1952, in which year Mr. A. J. Dewick took it near Bradwell-on-Sea, according to Firmin *et al.*, *Guide to the Butterflies and Moths of Essex*, p. 48. — I. McCLENAGHAN, 20 St. Nicholas Grove, Ingrave, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3RA.

COLIAS CROCEUS GEOF. IN S. E. LONDON, 1983. — Although not myself fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of the Clouded Yellow in my home district (evocative of summer holidays on the south coast in one's youth) following its great invasion last year, I have since been informed that it was repeatedly seen, sometimes even in good numbers, in a small field of lucerne, etc., at Kidbrooke, owned by a Greenwich wildlife conservation group. Less surprisingly, it was noted also farther east in Thamesmead. I kept a frequent look-out on Woolwich Common where clovers and other legumes abound but lucerne is absent. Evidently the latter exerts an attraction so potent as to prevent the butterflies from wandering far afield, even where isolated in a relatively small area. All the same, it does seem a little strange that in my various sorties around Charlton, only two miles from the field at Kidbrooke, I was not favoured with a single sighting. — A. A. ALLEN, 16.ix.84.